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**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	09/880,299
Filing Date	06/13/2001
First Named Inventor	N. Sakuma et al.
Group Art Unit	1731
Examiner Name	M. Halpern
Attorney Docket Number	TWA24AUSA

Total Number of Pages in this Submission

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

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Firm or Individual Name	George A. Smith, Jr.
Signature	
Date	09/06/02

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of
N. Sakuma et al.

Serial No.: 09/880,299

Filed: 06/13/2001

For: PAPERMAKING BELT

RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION
REQUIRING RESTRICTION

BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)(1)(ii)
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Date: September 6, 2002

Sir:

This is in response to the Official action of August 13, 2002.

Applicants elect Group I (claims 3-8) for examination.

Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement. Claims 3 and 9, for example, contain nearly identical language as shown by the following comparison of claim 9 with claim 3, in which deleted matter is stricken, and added matter is in bold italics.

39(new). A papermaking ~~machine having at least one belt for transporting~~**process comprising the transportation of** a paper sheet along a path in ~~the~~**a papermaking machine on a belt mounted in the papermaking machine**, wherein the paper sheet is in parallel, juxtaposed relation to a surface of the belt, **wherein** the belt ~~comprising~~**comprises** a base layer, and a resin layer overlying or underlying the base layer ~~when the papermaking belt is mounted on a papermaking machine~~, the resin layer having a middle part and opposite side edge parts,